

SECRET
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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE ¹

CRITICAL INFORMATION

(Effective 21 July 1982)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 and Executive Order 12333, policies and procedures are hereby established for the handling of critical information.

1. Purpose

This directive establishes policy and procedures for the handling of critical information and assigns responsibilities for determining the criteria for identifying critical information and for the transmission of such information.

2. Definition

Critical information is that information concerning foreign situations and other related developments which affect the national security interests of the United States to such an extent that it may require the immediate attention of the President and the National Security Council.

3. Primary Responsibilities

a. The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) will establish uniform criteria for the identification, selection, and designation of relative priority for the transmission of critical information. These criteria will be subject to continuing review.

b. The DCI will keep the Secretary of Defense apprised of the needs of the Intelligence Community for communications to handle critical intelligence.

c. The Secretary of Defense will be the Executive Agent to provide such communications needed to transmit critical intelligence to senior United States Government officials. He will ensure that the communications capabilities of all Government departments and agencies are used in the most efficient manner.

4. Intelligence Community Responsibilities

a. The Secretary of Defense has delegated Executive Agency responsibility for handling critical information to the Director, National Security Agency.

b. Critical information may originate with any United States Government official.

5. Guidelines and Procedures

Guidelines and procedures ² for the identification, dissemination, and handling of critical information are herewith established.

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

¹ This directive supersedes DCID No. 7/1, 18 May 1976.

² These guidelines are contained in Volume II of the DCI Directive Series.